

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2005
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Larry Hudkins, Chair
Deb Schorr, Vice Chair
Bernie Heier
Ray Stevens

Commissioners Absent: Bob Workman

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE TWO SETS OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES ON THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2005

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded approval of both sets of Staff Meeting minutes. Stevens, Heier, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Community Corrections Meeting
- B. Monthly City Council Staff Meeting

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Schorr, Stevens, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Community Corrections Meeting

Hudkins reported none of the Judges, Public Defender, County Attorney want any of the vicious and violent crimes to be evaluated. He said the County Attorney is having a problem with not getting the information that Community Corrections has prepared until the same time court starts.

Stevens indicated the County Board needs to look at the program in some detail to come up with some better guidelines and a common program.

The Board agreed to set up a meeting with Community Corrections, County Attorney, Public Defender, Judges and possibly the City Police Chief and County Sheriff.

B. Monthly Staff Meeting with City Council

Eagan reported he attended the monthly Staff Meeting with City Council and a vacant parking space has become available for the County's use. It was suggested that Mary Meyer have the space, which would cost the County \$15 because the City will be paying the other \$15.

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to approve contributing \$15 to the vacant parking spot. Heier, Hudkins, Schorr and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

3 BUDGET WORK SESSION - Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer

Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, appeared and distributed documentation regarding the final budget for FY05-06 (Exhibits A & B). He indicated the current rate is 28.43 cents per \$100 and the total impact is \$1.4 million.

Hudkins reported at the Budget Monitoring Committee meeting they discussed the number of FTE's in Lancaster County and what the average wage is.

Schorr asked if anyone on the committee asked about General Assistance.

Hudkins said General Assistance is one of the duties that Lancaster County has to fulfill and the County is trying to catch up on hospital and pharmaceutical bills. He also said the Joint Budget Agency was discussed.

Kroeker indicated he has been working on the Grants Fund, Keno Fund, Development Fund, R.E.A.P. Fund and the City Building Maintenance Fund and will get the numbers to the Board as soon as possible.

Kroeker also noted the final budget will be adopted on August 16, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

4 FUEL PURCHASES - Don Thomas, County Engineer; Vince Mejer, Purchasing Agent

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, distributed documentation regarding current vehicles that use E-85 ethanol fuel blend (Exhibit C).

Heier made a motion and for the purpose of discussion asked for a second.

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded to have the County Board direct all Elected Officials with County vehicles to use Ethanol blended gasoline (E-10 to E-85).

Todd Sneller, Ethanol Board, appeared and indicated they have contracted with the State of Nebraska, who uses E-10 gasoline, for the past 25 years and over 50% of the state vehicles are E-85 vehicles. He said the University of Nebraska recently announced their change to start using Ethanol and many School Districts, Resource Districts are also using the same gas. Sneller noted they are seeing a more sophisticated infrastructure system with more public access sites for E-85 installed and the newer vehicles will be E-85 capable.

Randy Klein, Nebraska Corn Board, appeared and stated Nebraska is the 3rd largest ethanol producer, the gas is cheaper and the BTU's are less. He said as of yesterday, Ethanol (E-10) was 2 cents cheaper than regular gasoline and E-85 is 50 cents cheaper.

Stevens said he wants to know how using Ethanol will apply to him as a County Commissioner of Lancaster County. He asked the County Engineer if ethanol is a viable, economic option for Lancaster County.

Don Thomas, County Engineer, said he could not answer the question, however he did say the concern would be the cost of the gas and the conversion cost of the bio-diesel.

Vince Mejer, Purchasing Agent, appeared and said the bid went out in May for standard regular gas, 10% Ethanol blend and Bio-diesel, however they don't have a cost for E-85. He said the contract is a yearly contract, Sapp Brothers currently has the contract and the County can use any type of gas they choose.

Heier said ethanol is a renewable fuel and it's not all about cost. He believes it is good for the State of Nebraska and would be good for the County.

Stevens asked about the costs and wondered if the gases can be intermixed. He also wondered if there would be a difference in maintenance cost operations and efficiency in pollution.

Thomas said over time they would know more about maintenance costs.

ROLL CALL: Schorr, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Stevens voted no. Motion carried.

6 RURAL ADDRESS UPDATE - Don Thomas, County Engineer

Bob Jacobs, Division Head Road Maintenance, appeared and distributed a copy of the sign design (Exhibit D). Jacobs indicated they are still working on getting the rural signs installed, but are having trouble getting help from Corrections. He predicted they would be installing the signs again by the middle of August.

Heier said he would speak with Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, about getting some help in installing the signs.

5 POTENTIAL LITIGATION - Kristy Mundt, Deputy County Attorney; Don Thomas, County Engineer

8 PENDING LITIGATION - Doug Cyr, Chief Deputy County Attorney; Kristy Mundt, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to enter into Executive Session at 10:11 a.m. for the purpose of discussing potential and pending litigation. Heier, Stevens, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to exit Executive Session at 11:12 a.m. Stevens, Schorr, Hudkins and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

7 FINAL PLAT NO. 05027, WHITETAIL RUN ADDITION, SW 14TH STREET AND BENNET ROAD - Mike DeKalb, Planner

Mike DeKalb, Planner, appeared and said the request is from Brian Carstens and Associates for nine lots and three outlots on property located northwest of the intersection of S.W. 14th Street and W. Bennet Road and there has been no objection to the final plat. DeKalb indicated the final plat is split jurisdiction between the City and County and the Planning Commission has recommended approval.

9 F³ CONTRACTS FOR EVENT PLANNING - Kristy Mundt, Deputy County Attorney

Kristy Mundt, Deputy County Attorney, appeared and indicated she has drafted the F³ contracts for two people to coordinate four different events. She said the two contracts are \$2,500 each and will go on Tuesday's agenda.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Heier seconded to develop the two contracts with the insurance waiver. Heier, Hudkins, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

10 FAMILY DRUG COURT - Honorable Linda Porter

Judge Linda Porter appeared and reported she has received a \$60,000 grant through the Court Administrator's Office to start a Family Drug Court geared towards women, young children and anyone that has been at risk due to substance abuse. She wanted to know if Lancaster County could be the pass through agent.

Gary Lacey, County Attorney, appeared and said he believes the Court Administrator should be the pass through agency.

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to have Judge Porter ask the Court Administrator to be the pass through agent for the \$60,000 grant, if not, Lancaster County will be the go between for one year. Stevens, Schorr, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

11 UNREPRESENTED CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE SALARIES AND BENEFITS -
John Cripe, Classification and Compensation Manager

John Cripe, Classification and Compensation Manager, appeared and indicated there will be an increase of 2.65% for the represented employees beginning in December and the PEHP plan will begin in September and end in December. He said Personnel has had a change in their computer system in the way points are done for seniority and it was agreed during negotiations to go from .75 to 1 for AFSCME represented employees on promotions and there will be a rule change for the people on probation.

Cripe also noted there was some discussion on shift differential in the Corrections Department between the sergeants and lieutenants receiving the lower rate and there will be an amendment to move them to the higher rate. He said there will also be an amendment to the family sick leave for family crisis for unrepresented employees and the injury leave went from calendar days to working days.

Cripe reported there will be a change to two job descriptions in the County Engineer's Department and a pay grade change for Correctional Sergeants and Lieutenants.

Cripe noted the unrepresented employees are currently receiving the PEHP contributions and he believed the increase for those employees should be between 1.5% to 2% to make them even with the represented employees.

The Board agreed to a 1.75% cost of living raise for the unrepresented employees.

12 ACTION ITEMS

- A. Thank You letter to Dr. Susan Gourley, Lincoln Public Schools Superintendent

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the thank you letter, as long as Kerry Eagan, Larry Hudkins and Trish Owen agree on the wording change. Schorr, Hudkins, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

14 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Abbott Motocross Track

Eagan distributed documentation regarding the proposed Abbott Motocross Track (Exhibits E & F) and briefly described the new site. He believed the only change the County might have to look at is an improvement to Arbor Road.

B. Meeting with Douglas and Sarpy County Board Staff

Eagan indicated the next meeting with Douglas and Sarpy County is August 8th and the Board agreed to discuss the following issues:

- General Assistance/LB 1083
- Regional Airport
- Qwest Center and Douglas County's involvement
- 911 Service from Cell Phones (Qwest Center)
- Cooperation on Coroner Activities
- MSA - Lincoln/Omaha
- Fuel Tax

C. Resignation of Robert Evnen from Personnel Policy Board

Eagan said Robert Evnan resigned from the Personnel Policy Board effective July 18, 2005.

The Board suggested Mark Kohler, Glenn Friendt, Chris Hove and Julie Seever.

D. Budget Monitoring Committee Membership

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to add the Executive Director of LIBA or their designate to be on the Budget Monitoring Committee. Schorr, Stevens, Hudkins and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

E. Innovation Zone Commission Appointments

Schorr indicated Bob Workman expressed interest in serving on the Board and Jim Strand has agreed to serve as the second representative.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to have Bob Workman and Jim Strand be the representatives on the Innovation Zone Commission.

Hudkins asked the Board to consider his attendance at the meeting if Workman cannot attend.

ROLL CALL: Schorr, Stevens, Hudkins and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

F. Letter to Nancy Montanez

Hudkins indicated Dave Kroeker received confirmation that the State will be sending \$534,000 to the County for past monies owed.

Eagan reported the contract for holding youth at the Juvenile Detention Facility ends September 30, 2005 and it needs to be renegotiated.

Schorr requested a one week delay in sending the letter until she has a chance to speak with Nancy Montanez.

It was the consensus of the Board to delay sending the letter for one week.

G. Hospital Authority No. 1 Board Vacancy

The Board suggested Cynthia or Richard Milligan, Alice Dittman, Connie Jensen and Debbie Brehm and they believed Brehm and Jensen would be the best candidates.

H. County Board Website

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, said Cori Beattie, County Board Secretary, has updated the County Commissioner's website and would like the Board's approval. The Board agreed they liked the new change, however they wanted the new logo added and suggested adding all Commissioners names to the home page.

I. Reappointment to Government Access and Information Committee (Jim Lamphere)

The Board agreed to reappoint Jim Lamphere to the Government Access and Information Committee and the item will go on Tuesday's agenda.

16 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

A. Monthly Meeting of County Board Chair/Vice Chair and Mayor (7/7) - Hudkins, Schorr

Hudkins reported they discussed a possible upcoming appointment to the Planning Commission.

Schorr noted the Board might be hearing from Mike Spadt about emergency vehicles responding to 911 calls.

- B. Monthly Meeting of PBC Chair/Vice Chair and Mayor (7/7) - Hudkins
- C. Public Building Commission (7/12) - Hudkins

Hudkins reported the K Street Complex was discussed at both meetings and a financial review committee was set up to analyze the proposals.

D. District Energy Corporation Meeting (7/12) - Heier, Hudkins

Heier reported there was a report given on the boilers.

Hudkins indicated the District Energy Corp. changed consultants because the boilers needed to be changed.

E. Keno Advisory Board (7/12) - Stevens

Stevens reported the Keno Board reviewed all the applications which were forwarded to the Joint Budget Committee for approval and then they will be sent to the County Board for approval.

F. Information Services Policy Committee (7/14) - Stevens

Stevens did not attend the meeting because of a luncheon at Lancaster Manor.

G. Arena Task Force (7/14 & 7/21) - Schorr

Schorr reported she toured the Events Center on the 14th, the Qwest Center on the 21st and they also visited the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs.

H. LIBA Budget Monitoring (7/19) - Stevens

Stevens did not attend the meeting because of Board of Equalization hearings.

I. LIBA Monthly Meeting (7/26) - Hudkins, Stevens

Hudkins reported there was a lot of questions about wheel tax and RUTS (Rural to Urban Transition for Streets) and most of them wanted to know how the money will be spent.

J. Youth Services Center Advisory Board (7/26) - Heier

Heier did not attend the meeting because he was out of town.

K. Community Mental Health Center Advisory Committee (7/27) - Stevens

Stevens did not attend the meeting because of a luncheon at BryanLGH.

L. Budget Monitoring Committee (7/27) - Hudkins, Stevens

This item was discussed earlier.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m. Heier, Hudkins, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk